



Traci Weiss

*K-3rd Grade Autistic Support Teacher
Bradford Heights Elementary, Downingtown, PA*

Traci Weiss was nominated by the parent of one of her students. The child had been diagnosed with autism at age 2, and before he entered kindergarten, he was non-verbal, emotionally withdrawn, and lacked the ability to communicate. All of that changed when Ms. Weiss became his teacher. She had the patience, intuition, and ingenuity to help him finally open up to the world!



Ms. Weiss's class is diverse along the autistic spectrum, and it is no easy task to manage classroom activities. There are times when there are disruptive behaviors stemming from a child's inability to appropriately communicate what they are thinking or feeling. Ms. Weiss always has ideas on how to get the children through a rough patch, and her suggestions almost always work!

Ms. Weiss's success is due in great measure to her personal commitment to the growth and success of these children. Her nominator told us that when the students participate in their community's Special Olympics, Ms. Weiss beams with as much pride as their own parents do!